

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS, EAID

SUBJECT: CHILE; SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP
OF FAA

1. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
MARKUP OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING
LANGUAGE WITH RESPECT TO CHILE:

QUOTE THESE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS IN ASSISTANCE ARE AN
EXPRESSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUING
DISREGARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. THE
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S RECORD IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD IS
DISMAL INDEED AND THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT ARE NOT THE
MOST ENCOURAGING--EVEN WITH THE NEWS THAT ALL OF THE
RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DEATH SENTENCES HAVE NOW BEEN COMMUTED
TO PRISON TERMS. THIS DECISION BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES WAS
OF CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE DURING THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERA-
TION OF THE AID TO CHILE ISSUE. IN THE ABSENCE OF IT, THE
COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE PROBABLY RECOMMENDED A BLANKET CUT-OFF
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OF ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND CREDIT SALES SCHEDULED FOR

CHILE IN THIS FISCAL YEAR. THIS IS ALL BUT CERTAIN TO
HAPPEN WHEN NEXT THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS FOREIGN AID
LEGISLATION, UNLESS IN THE INTERIM THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES
IN CHILE HAVE ACTED DECISIVELY TO IMPROVE THEIR RECORD ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. UNQUOTE

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL ON THE SENATE FLOOR IS
EXPECTED SOMETIME IN MID-SEPTEMBER. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
THE COMMITTEE'S CEILING ON ASSISTANCE TO CHILE AT DOLS
65 MILLION, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN DOLS 10 MILLION MAY BE
FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WILL BE FURTHER RESTRICTED AT
THAT TIME. THE MARKUP OF THE BILL BY THE HOUSE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO RESUME IN THE SECOND
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. KISSINGER

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